

TITLE: Tasman District Council Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022 Submission Hearing
DATE: Friday 4 May 2012
TIME: 9.30 am
VENUE: Tasman Council Chambers, 189 Queen Street, Richmond

PRESENT: Mayor R G Kempthorne (Chair), Crs J L Edgar, B W Ensor, G A Glover, J L Inglis, T B King, C M Maling, T E Norriss, P F Sangster, E J Wilkins

IN ATTENDANCE: Strategic Development Manager (S Edwards)
Strategic Projects Adviser (M Tregurtha)
Administration Officer (G Woodgate)

APOLOGIES

**Moved Crs Inglis/Glover
CN12-05-04**

**THAT apologies from Crs M L Bouillir, S G Bryant, B F Dowler and Z S Mirfin for absence be received.
CARRIED**

1 HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS TO DRAFT LONG TERM PLAN 2012/2022

1.1 Mr Colin Garnett (2242)

Mr Garnett's submission covered eleven different topics.

Mr Garnett asked 'Where is the expenditure on the TDC building extensions in the LTP? and please explain how such unplanned expenditure is allowed'.

Mr Garnett added that he 'had looked at Council's loans figures and divided the total figure by the costs per head of our population and has come to the conclusion that Council is very indebted and living beyond its means. Council has doubled its loans over the past five years and plans to double this again in the 10 years of the LTP – this is untenable' he advised.

Mr Garnett stated that in his opinion, developers were not paying their way with development contributions. He considered developers should have paid between \$40-50m over the past six years but have only paid \$14m. He added that what the developers have not paid in contributions have gone onto Council loans.

Mr Garnett suggested that Council has got its Household Unit of Demand [HUD's] figures wrong – they should be double their current rate.

9.38 am: Cr Norriss arrived.

Questions and Answers

Cr Inglis stated that if the HUD's were doubled, people would walk away.

Cr King advised Mr Garnett that central Government had told local Government that development contributions were too high.

1.2 Mr Richard Hoddy (2247) Vailima Orchard Ltd

Mr Hoddy supported the building of the Lee Valley Dam but only if it is affordable. He added that 'the cost of the Dam to landowners is a huge financial burden under the current economic climate'.

Mr Hoddy advised that the costs of 'the Dam should be spread on a per head basis and those costs need to be shared equally between central and local governments and users'. He concluded by stating that 'Council asset sales should occur to pay for the Dam'.

Questions and Answers

Cr King noted that 50% of the project is to be met by urban users and asked Mr Hoddy if he knew of any other scheme where this was the case. Mr Hoddy advised he did not.

Cr Glover asked if this was the wrong economic environment to be building the Lee Valley Dam and was advised big landowners should come up with a lot more money but that some dairy farmers had been moving out of the Waimea Plains due to the high cost of land.

Cr Glover then asked should water users pay for what they use and was advised everyone should pay for the capital cost of the Dam.

Cr Inglis asked if householders should pay a bigger share and was told Nelson is already nervous about how high this should be.

1.3 Mr Barry Thompson (2249) Waimea East Irrigation Co Ltd

Cr Kit Maling deputised for Mr Thompson.

Cr Maling advised that 'the Waimea East Irrigation Co Ltd supports the need for water augmentation in principle but cannot support the regional Dam proposal suggested cost structure, as the financial burden that will be placed on all Waimea East Irrigation shareholders and other affected water users cannot be accepted'.

Cr Maling noted the Lee Valley Dam to be an intergenerational project and that the funding model required a lot more work ie. looking at other funding sources and spreading the loan over a longer term. He noted that domestic users will pay the same rate as irrigators but that they have a higher priority.

Questions and Answers

Cr King advised that if central Government paid a higher proportion of investment, they would then expect a higher return. Cr Maling advised that those who will not take up their water entitlement will help.

Cr Sangster asked if a UAGC first, then user pays, would be a better system and was advised that the funding model urgently needed to be re-examined.

Cr Sangster then asked would having a smaller Dam help and was told this did not save any money.

Cr Inglis asked if having a low interest loan over 30 years would ease the burden and was advised 'yes, but this put the costs out over a longer time period'.

10.00 am: Mayor Kempthorne departed. Cr King assumed the Chair.

1.4 Mr Barry Thompson (2250)

Mr Thompson tabled a handout and read from it.

Mr Thompson advised TDC needs Wairoa/Waimea rivers to supply their deep wells near Rabbit Island and should therefore pay a much larger share of the Lee Valley Dam costs.

Mr Thompson stated that his orchards could not handle the costs suggested in the Lee Valley Dam proposal.

10.10 am: Mayor Kempthorne returned and assumed the Chair.

Mr Thompson added that the less water his orchards received, the lower the quality of this crop became - he would then lose his export fruit.

Questions and Answers

Cr Ensor asked if Mr Thompson felt the 50%, 30%, 20% split was a fair share and was advised that the 20% urban share needed to be 40%.

Cr King asked if the proposed \$310/ha/yr was a reasonable charge and was advised that the Waimea East users considered this figure 'frighteningly high' and would not hold for small property owners. He added 'there are a lot of small property owners out there'.

Cr Edgar asked if the per hectare costs were tax deductible and was advised they were 'if you are making an income'.

1.5 Mr Hudson Dodd (2232) Brook Waimarama Sanctuary Trust

Mr Dodd was accompanied by Dr. David Butler.

Mr Dodd's submission advised that the Trust was extremely grateful for the on-going support and commitment shown by the TDC in supporting the Brook Waimarama

Sanctuary project and requested the funding be kept in place and he asked if inflation could be factored in as well. Mr Dodd added that the funding is for a predator-free fence to be constructed in the hope of bird life returning to the region.

Questions and Answers

Cr Edgar asked what is the total fencing project fund and was advised \$4.2m (\$1m from the NCC).

Cr Edgar then asked how much has the Trust raised itself and was advised \$100k and that the fence is to be built in 2013.

Cr Ensor asked what are the ongoing operational costs and what percentage of those costs will be met by those going to the Brook Waimarama Sanctuary. Mr Dodd replied that ongoing operational costs are estimated to be \$300k pa and that a Feasibility Study is underway to determine the answer to the second question.

Mr Dodd stated that the Trust will not go into this project with debt.

Cr Glover asked if the start time was realistic and was told that it was.

1.6 Mr Dennis Little (2262)

Mr Little's submission supported water augmentation but not the funding model for the Lee Valley Dam in its present proposal. He added 'do not impose something that landowners cannot afford'.

Questions and Answers

Cr Edgar asked if he knew if there was a funding model that supported everyone's needs and was advised \$500/ha/yr would not be out of the question.

1.7 Mr Ron Oliver (2263) Coastal Initiative Group (CIG)

Ms Janet Taylor deputised for Mr Oliver.

CIG's submission outlined eleven matters of concern to them.

Questions and Answers

Cr Edgar asked for clarity on the role of CIG and asked who speaks for the residents of Mapua? Ms Taylor replied that the bypass issue was the catalyst for CIG forming from four local groups.

Cr Sangster noted that CIG seemed to want the economic projects for the rest of the Tasman region cut to help fund its projects for Mapua. Ms Taylor replied that they wanted Council to show a more strategic focus for Mapua.

Cr Norriss asked about Mapua's representation and was told 'Mapua and Ruby Bay should be a ward in its own right'.

1.8 Ms Janet Taylor (2264) Mapua & Districts Business Association

Ms Taylor advised that the Mapua & Districts Business Association supported the walkway and cycleway projects in the region.

Questions and Answers

Cr Norriss asked where Council's share of the cycle project should be spent and was advised it should be spent on the Mapua to Motueka section, then on the Upper Moutere and back to Richmond and Wakefield.

Cr Norriss then asked 'whether a loop was needed'? and was told a combination of both was a valid solution.

Cr King asked if Council should complete each section to a high standard first and was told 'yes – this would encourage people to support the Cycle Trust'.

Cr King then asked if commercial operators and businesses would be happy to pay a fee for the cycle project and was advised 'yes – if it benefitted them'.

10.54 – 11.00 am: Morning tea break.

1.9 Mr Seager Mason (2270) GE Aware Nelson

Mr Mason was accompanied by Ms Suzie Lees.

Mr Mason tabled a handout of an OHP presentation. The GE Aware Nelson submission outlined six suggested wording changes to include GE issues in the draft TDC LTP.

Mr Mason stated that TDC needed to show some responsibility regarding genetic engineering. He spoke about crop contamination from GE crops and genetic mutation and called for Council to adopt making GE a prohibited activity within the District.

Questions and Answers

Cr King noted that Mr Mason was critical of IRMA and EPA but the low number of trials in New Zealand showed they were being very responsible. Mr Mason replied that 'the trials are being poorly managed and we need safety catches in place'.

Cr King assumed the Chair as Mayor Kempthorne declared an interest in the following submission.

1.10 Mr Nigel Muir (2278) Sport Tasman

Mr Muir was accompanied by Mr Dave Tippett.

Mr Muir's submission supported twelve items, and challenged six items, within the Draft TDC LTP.

Mr Muir advised that Sport Tasman wanted the six items identified as Challenges put back into the Draft TDC LTP.

Questions and Answers

Cr Edgar asked about the developments listed for Saxton Field and was recommended not to leave Saxton Field half developed.

Cr Maling asked what is the top priority of Sport Tasman and was advised that it was cycleways as this had the highest participation rate.

Cr Ensor noted how expensive it is to swim at the ASB Swimming Pool and asked what other options are there? Mr Muir advised that 'Council and CLM are partners. Once the capital costs are paid off, the money should be reallocated to dropping the cost of swimming. One third of the community say they swim and 30/40% don't go the ASB Pool due to the cost'. Mr Muir recommended trialling a lower entry fee to see what would happen.

11.30 am: Mayor Kempthorne departed.

1.11 Ms Barbara Graves (1826) Safe at the Top

Ms Graves was accompanied by Ms Annette Baxter.

Ms Graves advised that Safe at the Top promotes safety within the region and proposed the following statement be included in the draft TDC LTP:-

'As an International Safe Community, TDC recognises that safety is "a universal concern and a responsibility for all". Through continuing to work collaboratively with a range of communities, businesses, organisations and agencies as part of Safe at the Top, community safety can be improved by providing commitment, support and leadership. TDC will continue to support Safe at the Top until reaccreditation in 2015 and beyond'.

Ms Graves noted that TDC was given a WHO plaque in recognition of becoming the 250th community across the globe for being an International Safer Community designation and asked where is it?

1.12 Ms Jackie McNae (2280) Paton Rise Ltd

Ms McNae was accompanied by Mr John Davies of Mt Hope Holdings Ltd.

Ms McNae tabled a handout and read from it. Her submission (on behalf of Paton Rise Ltd) related to the timeline programme for an upgrade to the Mapua/Ruby Bay water supply under the proposed Draft TDC 2012 LTP.

Questions and Answers

Cr Sangster asked if water tanks would suffice as a stop gap solution and was advised 'Yes – but there is a very poor connection between the political and staff arms across Council over this issue'.

Cr Edgar asked if the Rural 3 pipeline was truly needed and was advised if there is not a restructuring in orcharding in the Mapua area, then no water will be freed up.

Cr Ensor asked what would be a sustainable water solution for Mapua and was told 'tanks fitted to bores with meters. However, fire fighting provisions have changed this. What is truly needed is a reticulated urban water supply'.

11.55 am: Mayor Kempthorne returned and assumed the Chair.

1.13 Ms Jackie McNae (2281) D & A Freilich

Ms McNae tabled a handout and read from it. Her submission (on behalf of D & A Freilich and Mt Hope Holdings) related to the water supply to Mapua/Ruby Bay outlined in the proposed TDC Draft LTP 2012.

Ms McNae advised that Waimea East scheme had advised that it would be able to provide water.

Questions and Answers

Mayor Kempthorne advised that the Waimea East developers were supposed to pursue water for Mapua. Ms McNae replied that on 27 May 2010 a letter advised the availability of water plus costs and treatment. Cr Maling advised that he had signed off that letter on behalf of the Waimea East Irrigation Co Ltd advising that unpotable water was available and that it required treatment.

Mayor Kempthorne to follow up.

1.14 Mr David Mitchell (2289)

Mr Mitchell was accompanied by Ms Janet Taylor.

Mr Mitchell's submission covered three concerns:-

1. The proposal to more than double accumulated Council debt in the TDC Draft LTP
2. The increases in rates and targeted rates, and the cost of water
3. The Council's proposal to curtail development of cycleways and to stop the Regional Cycle Trail at Stage 1.

Questions and Answers

Cr King outlined the original seven year time period for the Tasman Great Taste Trail and asked what is the hurry now? Mr Mitchell replied 'that a commitment is required from Council and it should do it once and do it right'.

Cr Inglis asked how do you build these trail ways if you don't borrow any money and was advised that Council needed to cutback in other areas. Mr Mitchell noted that marketing of the Tasman Great Taste Trail is generating enquiries already and that the Coast Trail is rated No. 3 in the world. EDA reported that a \$10m return each year is expected from them.

Cr Glover asked if Council should stick with the original plan and was advised it was important to designate a complete route for the Trail and to consult with the Community on variations to it.

12.30 – 1.10 pm: Lunch break.
Strategic Projects Adviser (M Tregurtha) departed.
Strategic Development Manager (S Edwards) arrived.

1.15 Mr Tom Board (2311)

Mr Board's submission supported the Nelson Provincial Museum and he requested Councillors work with the NCC regarding the capital project to upgrade and expand its facilities.

Questions and Answers

Cr Edgar asked if a full review of the Museum and Art Gallery's needs was required and was advised 'yes – the wider needs of both need to be considered'.

Cr King noted the Museum says it has a large collection but there is not a lot there to look at! He then asked is the current location and display part of the Museum doing enough? Cr King was advised by Mr Board that he personally would sell the town site as it is under-utilised with lots of dead space and the whole Museum/Art Gallery issue be re-thought. He recommended a new site in Albion Square.

1.16 Mr Albie Aubrey (2321)

Mr Aubrey's submission concerned Council's UAGC.

Mr Aubrey hoped the Tourism Rate was a 'no goer' as it is an 'obnoxious rate that penalises low income earners and low priced property owners' and recommended Council get back to its core activities. He added that the promotion of the tourism industry should be undertaken by that industry.

Mr Aubrey noted that Council has advised that the UAGC is not going to increase but it is part of the general rate that is rising! He added that this rate generates \$5/6m annually and that people are not against the UAGC because they don't understand it.

Mr Aubrey stated 'the UAGC and the General rate are poles apart'.

Questions and Answers

Cr Glover asked if Mr Aubrey wanted Council to show the UAGC separately in the TDC LTP and was advised 'yes and to get rid if it'.

Cr Edgar asked if Mr Aubrey wanted Council to phase out the Tourism Rate and was advised if Council wanted to support the Tourism industry, its input should come from the General rate. He asked for Council to do away with non core activities.

Cr Inglis asked should Council drop EDA as well and was told 'I don't know'.

Cr Ensor advised that Council owns 50% of Tasman Tourism and asked if it should stop funding it and pull the plug from its own company? Mr Aubrey asked 'why do we need it? - phase it out over five years'.

1.17 Mr William Page (2322)

Mr Page opposed:-

- The Lee Valley Dam in its current form
- The pipe line from Motueka to Mapua
- Water treatment plant with the Governments standards thrown at it.

Mr Page noted that Government regulations have meant matters like water treatment have come off the tax bill and onto the rate bill.

Questions and Answers

Cr King asked if Councils needed to debate the rules and regulations from central government and was asked 'What happens if we don't implement them?' He was informed of the significant fines for not following central governments rules and regulations.

Mayor Kempthorne asked if the Lee Valley Dam was not built and Council had to claw back 50-70% of water rights, should Council do this? Mr Page replied 'yes – the Waimea Plains need the 30mm of water per week but that the Redwood Valley apple growers do not need it.'

1.18 Mrs Berylla Jones (1989) Murchison Community Resource Centre

Mrs Dot Bradley deputised for Mrs Jones.

Mrs Bradley advised that Murchison is a small place with very little funding and that Council needs to continue funding it. Mrs Jones' submission called for financial help to upgrade access tracks along two of the four rivers around Murchison.

Questions and Answers

Cr Glover advised that Council was strapped for funding and asked if Murchison had considered a 'Keep Murchison Beautiful' group. Mrs Bradley advised that it had one and Council had funded it.

Cr Glover then asked if the Resource Centre had worked with the local RSA on any projects and was advised that the local RSA was not strong due to its elderly population.

Cr Maling asked if the Resource Centre had thought of using PD workers for projects and was advised that they had done this 'when the Corrections Department made them available'.

1.19 Mrs Dot Bradley (2141)

Mrs Bradley advised that she was upset that no white lines had been provided along Fairfax Street in Murchison. She called this dangerous in the dark or while it was raining.

Mayor Kempthorne advised that he would forward this concern on to Council's Roading department.

Mrs Bradley called for Council to promote the use of rain water tanks throughout the District in the name of water conservation.

1.20 Mr Rob & Mrs Jo Brown (2326)

Mr Brown was accompanied by Mr Ewen Croucher.

Mr Brown opposed the 60% increase in the cost of service for restricted rural water supply. He noted that it took 31 seconds to fill half a litre of water from his rural water supply – stating that it comes at a very slow rate and at very low pressure, therefore he must store it.

Mr Brown recommended the restricted rural water supply increase would be fairer at 58% of the urban rate and asked where did Council get the 90% figure from? He concluded that if the rural and urban rate were to be the same, ‘then give us the same level of service and water supply’ (fully pressurised).

Mr Croucher added that with inflation at 1.9% and in the current economic climate, a 90% increase was very excessive – ‘some individuals can’t afford this’ he added.

1.21 Ms Marion Satherley (2130)

Ms Satherley’s submission covered seven matters. She advised that she was finding it hard to pay her rates. She further advised that she runs a business in Mapua and that if she could correct staff inefficiencies to save costs, Council could do likewise.

Ms Satherley added that rates increases should not be above the current inflation rate and asked ‘why is Council into Tourism?’ She added that she was opposed to the items listed in her submission.

Questions and Answers

Cr Wilkins asked ‘Does tourism help your business and was advised ‘no – we have minimal tourism money input’. Ms Satherley added that ‘it was time Tourism stood on its own two feet – the more you prop up tourism the more they will want to be propped up’.

Cr Inglis asked if Ms Satherley would rather see the tourism money go into cycleways and was advised ‘yes – the tourism rate is of no benefit to ratepayers’.

Cr Ensor noted that Ms Satherley was opposed to pumped water from anywhere and asked why. Ms Satherley replied that a long pipeline meant a lot of maintenance. She added that rural people should look after their own water needs via tanks for rain water as her family had done and never run out of water doing this.

Cr Ensor then asked what Ms Satherley’s water capacity was and was advised two 70k litre tanks.

The meeting concluded at 2.20 pm.

Date Confirmed:

Chair:

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES